Spiral Quest

Concordia University Pagan Society

Winter Semester 1995

C.U.P.S.

Concordia University Pagan Society

The unexplained, the mysterious, magic — there is more to myths and legends than society leads us to believe. "The **truth** is out there." The Earth ***is*** alive. We ***are*** a part of Her.

Does the moon inspire you? Do you believe magic is worthy of study or should be part of your life? This is so for Pagans and kindred spirits. Witchcraft, Shamanism, Druidism, and other folk/nature religions are all a part of Paganism.

The **Concordia University Pagan Society (CUPS)** will give you the opportunity to explore these paths with like-minded people. Join us as we celebrate the cycle of Nature through art, dance, drama, song, music, poetry, feasts and festivities. We offer a host of workshops and events : herbalism, storytelling, Ukrainian egg painting, drumming meditation, nature hikes, Irish dancing, tarot, and more.

At present, you can reach us through the **Concordia Student Union (CSU)** at room **H 637**, at **848-7474**, or leave a message in our mailbox at room **H 637-3**.

We have meetings **throughout this summer**. Meeting are held **every Thursday night** at **20h00 (8 p.m.)** in room **AD 430** on the **Loyola Campus**.

All are Welcome !!!

Calling of the Moon

Scarlet

In my dreams, I hear a voice ... singing to me ...
calling to me ... not by my name; yet,
I will answer to the name.
In my dreams, I hear a tune ... water splashing ...
a flute playing ... I know not the music; yet,
I am compelled to dance to it.
In my wake, I still hear the voice, the tune.
And if I am out of doors, the singing ...
the music ... become quite clear.

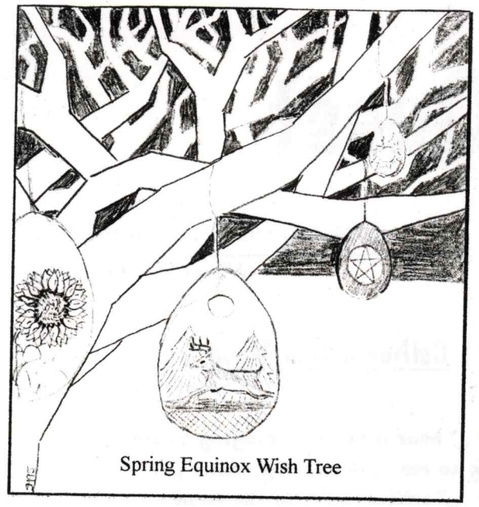
"Come to me, dance for me.
I guide you as I guide the water.
Come to me, dance for me.
Be as one with the wild.
Come to me, dance for me.
I call *thee* ... **Scarlet.**
Now come and dance."

I climb out of bed.
And though only in my nightgown,
I leave my house,
And walk down to the water's edge
Where all that's around me is wild.

The water whispers the name
(Scarlet)
over and over
And ..... I dance ..... under the moon
I dance ..... to a sacred tune

Sung by the moon
Played by the wild
Danced by the child

Full Moon (Esbat) : Friendship Ritual



Spring Equinox Wish Tree

Pysanka Egg Painting

Scarlet

Pysanka Eggs are a Ukranian folk art. "Pysanka" is Ukranian for the word "write". The egg is a symbol of creation, life, and the universe. So, when the designs are painted on the eggs a prayer or a story is written. It becomes a living prayer.

There are many designs with great symbolism. Some of the more common designs are sun symbols, stars, crosses, trees, flowers, and animals. They all have meanings intertwined with meaningful colours. The colours are generally vibrant and eye-catching.

Pysanka eggs are made all through the year, but they are exchanged or given as gifts near the time of Easter. This holiday is also referred to as the celebration of Oestre. The tradition of painting Pysanka eggs or creating these living prayers and charms is a tradition generally passed from mother to daughter.

C.U.P.S. Against Human Life International

by: Kathryn MacKenzie

Human Life International was founded by Paul Marx and is an U.S. Christian-right organization which is known for its discriminatory positions. The H.L.I. is against abortions, contraception, sexual education and homosexuality. Paul Marx wrote anti-Semitic pamphlets in which he accuses that the Jews "more or less led the abortion movement." This is only one example of their hatred— besides their proclamations against women and feminists—one of the conferences they held in Montreal was titled "The Moslem Threat to the World."

To stand apposed to the H.L.I.'s sexism, racism, anti-Semitism and homophobia, Linda Demissy and I decided to join the ***Montreal Coalition Against the H.L.I.*** and to represent C.U.P.S. at a demonstration against the H.L.I., Linda and I became Marshals. Marshals were responsible for standing between the demonstrators and the police to try to defuse any explosive situations among the demonstrators before they occurred.

The demonstration against the H.L.I. took place in front of the Notre-Dame Basilica on April 19th, 1995. The H.L.I. were holding their mass in the Notre-Dame Basilica to be followed by a candle march back to their hotel. The plan of the Coalition Against the H.L.I. was to hold their demonstration in Place D'Armes and to follow the H.L.I.'s procession to their hotel. The demonstration was to stop at Square Victoria where the Coalition Against the H.L.I. were going to hold their speeches.

The first part of the night was uneventful until it came time for the H.L.I. to proceed with the march. The police had changed into riot gear in anticipation of the demonstrators getting out of control. There was a lot of shoving as the demonstrators surged to the front where the Marshals were standing in a protective line. The demonstrators proceeded to name call the H.L.I. and throw things at them but the anticipated riot never came. We followed the H.L.I. march with Pagans there enforce. C.U.P.S. members along with other member of the Montreal Pagan Grove community showed our opposition to the H.L.I. by making our presence known, there was a banner saying *PAGANS AGAINST HLI.*

Though the demonstration wasn't entirely peaceful—a few protestors were arrested as they got out control and a police car was over turned—the Coalition Against the H.L.I. made their point, Human Life International was not welcomed in Montreal!

What's a Druid ?

Linda Demissy

Once upon a time, there were priestesses and priests, scholars and magicians, jurists and historians, healers and seers and bards. They were the segment of society who left their homes to go and spend many years of study, learning from the most knowledgeable people of their time. These men and women were called druids in ancients Ireland, just as they were called Brahmans in India, gothi (godman) and gythia(godwoman) in Scandinavia, etc. In fact, all the peoples of the Indo-European language family had their own version of the "druid", which isn't surprising since they once shared the same culture before spreading throughout Europe. Among these you'll find the Celtic, Germanic, Norse, Slavic, Baltic, Greek, Roman and Iranian. Since they're all really distant cousins, Ar nDraiocht Fein: A Druid Fellowship, says "Let's call all these people druids. It sure is easier than saying 'the upper intellectual and religious caste of all the descendants of the Proto-Indo-European peoples'. And it sounds neat too!" Mind you, ADF is only one of the Neopagan Druid movements (though the largest in America), so you'll find other Druid groups that are specifically Celtic, or even just Irish. "But weren't the druids all men?" you may ask. Well, no, they weren't. Gender was irrelevant back then, and it still is today. "But weren't the women called Witches?" Good question. Tune in next issue to find out.

Chant from Druidic Lunar Eclipse Ritual

Ancestors

From far beyond this mortal world
Mothers and Fathers of old
We pray that you'll return again
Mothers and Fathers of old
To share with us the mysteries
and secrets long untold
Of the ancient ways
We seek to reclaim
Mothers and Fathers of old

Stone Lore

Hertha

Amethyst

The AMETHYST (birth-stone of Aquarius - Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Has long been of interest to people of various cultures and environments. Its colour - from almost colourless, just slightly lilac-tinged, to the deep rich purple that is considered its most attractive and valuable colour - has held a fascination for many. Amethyst is a hexagonal quartz with a hardness of 7, therefore lending itself to facetting to enhance its appearance greatly (particularly if the stone is clear and transparent without enclosures marring it).

The name is derived from the Greek word "amethystos", meaning "not drunken", which - when playing on semantics - could also be meaning "not intoxicated" - therefore expanding the meaning considerably. Now the name may convey the meaning of not being intoxicated with wine alone (in a charming Greek legend, this stone is associated with Bacchus), but with self-importance, tempers and infatuations. Now the meaning of the name stresses self-discipline and high-standards, as well as justice. Even Christianity has borrowed the symbolism of the amethyst : it is the jewel in the Bishop's ring.

Nonetheless, to play again on the name, the ancient Greeks and Romans had goblets fashioned from amethyst to save them from getting too drunk at their banquets!

However, the association with justice, the law, protection and integrity has found an echo in both the Celtic and Norse belief systems. The Celtic deities of Justice - such as the Dagda, Danu and Macha - are linked with this stone, as are the Norse Gods - Aegir, Forseti and Heimdall - all listing justice and protection as their attributes.

Herb Lore

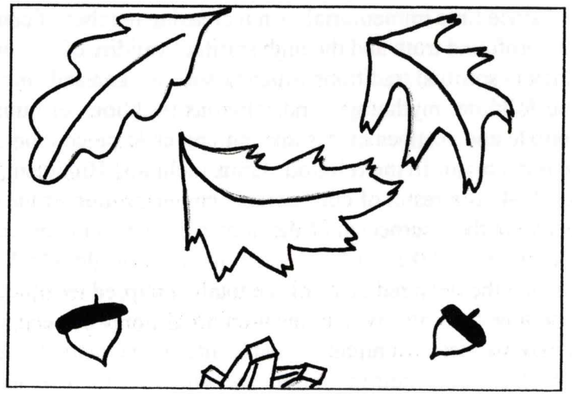
Hertha

The Oak Tree

The OAK TREE (Quercus Robur), too, is linked between the gods of the Celts, the gods of the Norse and the amethyst gem. The oak also stood for justice (evil-doers were hanged from oak trees by the Norse), for steadfastness and purity of cause. The oak was also one of the trees held sacred by the druids. This tree is strong and lives long making it a worshipped and sacred tree in many cultures.

Oak leaves burnt as an incense were considered purifying. The acorns placed in the window guarded against lightening. And, charms made from acorns, oak leaves and bits of the bark of an oak tree were carried for protection.

The medicinal part of the oak (such as that of the White Oak) was used for infusions and teas. The infusions can be used for hemorrhoids and other rectal problems, menstrual problems and blood in the urine. It makes a good medication for vericose veins. The tea helps hemorrhoids, reduces fever and washes sores and skin irritations. Gargle the tea for throat irritations.



The Goddess Remembered

Scarlet

The Goddess Remembered is a film by Donna Read. It is the first in her trilogy of *Women and Spirituality*. The film introduces you to **The Goddess** and **Goddess Religions**. It attempts to explain the origins of goddess worship. Howener, there are several historical inaccuracies as the narration tries to fit everything into a very narrow feminist perspective. As a film, it was a little chaotic, it could have flowed much better. Also, the narration and the guest speakers didn't seem to be saying the same things. Overall, the film was ... interesting. The following films in the series are The Burning Times and Full Circle, which show promise of improvement.

Book Review : 'The Alex Saunders Lectures' by Alex Saunders

Loki Gui

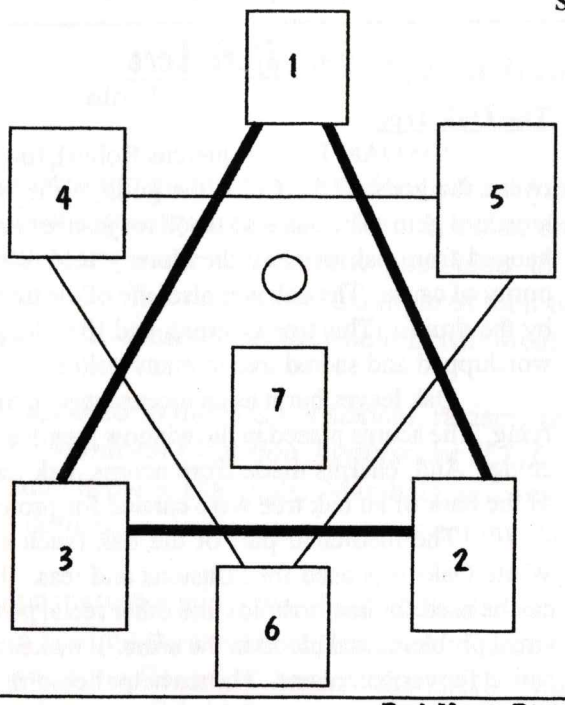
This is a delightful read. In this book are found some of Wicca's basic tenants ... from an Alexandrian perspective. This book gives a positive perspective on Wicca from one of its now traditional schools.

Saunder's lectures relate to initiation, the keeping of a book of shadows, herbalism, invocations and legends of the God and Goddess. He relates the 'Charge of the Goddess' in its entirety. Not surprising as it is attributed to Doreen Valiente. Valiente was a member of Gerald Gardner's coven, as was Saunders. It is from Gardner that Saunders sets his initial inspiration.

The book is published by ***Magical Childe*** and is available locally **Le Melange Magique**.

Tarot

Scarlet



Triangular Vision Spread

○ Significator or a personal object of the person whom the reading is for should be placed just slightly above card 7 before any cards are layed out.

△ 1 - past
2 - present
3 - future

▽ 4 - first influence
5 - second influence
6 - third influence

7 - answer or final outcome

Red Moon Rising

By : Robin Edgar

Earth's moon has been personified as female and has been perceived as a symbol of the feminine principal since time immemorial. An increasing number of contemporary Western women are beginning to appreciate the profound truth and the high spiritual validity of this universal perception as they rediscover and reimplement ancient spiritual traditions which honour women and embody distinctly feminine spiritual values. As we shall see the folklore, mythology, and religious traditions of numerous ancient cultures personified the moon as being female and vestiges of this ancient universal perception are found in the scriptures and traditions of most of the world's major living religious faiths including Hinduism, Judaism, and thus by extrapolation Christianity. Early in 1994, as a result of considerable contemplation of the correspondences between the microcosm of the human body and the macrocosm of the sun, the moon, and the Earth, I had an intuitive insight which inspired me to associate the deep red color of the totally eclipsed moon with menstrual blood. I believe that this divinely inspired insight may be accepted by spiritually aware women as a highly valuable alternative metaphysical paradigm, one which honours their femininity and sanctifies their sexuality.

If you are interested in reading the remainder of this article about menstrual symbolism in the total lunar eclipse, leave a message with the Concordia University Pagan Society or at Melange Magique. You may also contact Robin Edgar by mail :

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